

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for immunological labeling of thin tissue sections comprising:

an input section, a supply section, and a treatment section;

a transport mechanism which travels back and forth between the supply section and the treatment section in order to transport at least one transport container from the supply section to the treatment section or from the treatment section to the supply section;

a carrier plate positioned in said treatment section on which the thin tissue sections are affixed in a defined pattern;

at least one slide on which a treatment liquid is applied in the form of droplets, wherein the arrangement of the droplets on the slide corresponds to the arrangement of the thin tissue sections on the carrier plate;

a each transport container for holding one slide; wherein the transport container has a peripheral delimiting wall attached to a base; and,

said supply station comprising a first and a second station, in which the transport containers are stacked, wherein the base of one transport container constitutes the cover of a transport container arranged beneath it[.], wherein in the treatment section, the transport

mechanism lifts the transport container in such a way that the liquid droplets present on the slide wet the tissue sections provided on the one lower side of the carrier plate.

2. (Original)                      The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the transport containers that each carry a slide are stacked in the first station and a plurality of fresh, unused droplets are arranged on the slides.

3. (Currently amended)        The apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein the transport containers that each carry a slide are stacked in the second station and a plurality of droplets, already used during ~~a~~ by a treatment step are arranged on the slides.

4. (Original)                      The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein in the first station and in the second station, the topmost transport container in each case is not equipped with a slide; and the base of that transport container exclusively constitutes the cover for the following transport container in the first and second station.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended)        The apparatus as defined in Claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein each of the tissue sections are on the lower side of the carrier plate and rest on a metal grid that is held in position by a magnet~~[[s]]~~ provided in the carrier plate.

8. (Currently amended)        The apparatus as defined in Claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the treatment section comprises an arm in which a holder for the carrier plate is retained.

9. (Original)                      The apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein the holder possesses two grip recesses that serve for introduction and removal of the holder into and from the arm of the treatment section.

10. (Currently amended)        The apparatus as defined in Claim [[5]] 1, wherein the input section encompasses a user interface with multiple input buttons and a display.

11. (Currently amended)        The apparatus as defined in Claim [[5]] 1, wherein the ~~station~~ supply section is enclosed and is accessible from outside via a first and a second door, the first station with transport containers being arranged behind the first door, and the second station with transport containers being arranged behind the second door.

12. (Currently amended)        The apparatus as defined in Claim [[5]] 1, wherein the treatment section has a pivotable cover beneath which a staining unit is located in which a carrier plate is retained.

13. (Original)                      The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first and second station are constituted by a first, second, and third bar that are parallel to one another; the first and second bar are the endpoints of the base of an isosceles triangle; the third bar is the vertex of the isosceles triangle; the first, second, and third bar serve as guides for the transport containers; and the bars are secured at their upper ends in a common plate.

14-26. (Cancelled)